



**Above, Tayliana Mack watches from the sidelines as Nellis' team plays softball against the Norht Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce team. Below, from left to right, Hannah and Patty Baddeley, Isiah Murray, Jimmy Baddeley and Amarah Dodson enjoy Nellis festivities.**



# North Las Vegas appreciates Nellis

**By Ms. Monique Staskiewicz  
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Hot dog in one hand and chips in the other, airmen left the buffet line to find a nice spot in the grass. Freedom Park held approximately 4,000 persons, young and old, for North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce's Nellis Appreciation Day picnic, Sept. 23.

"This was the North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce's way of saying 'thank you' for all the business, not just buying material for Nellis but also the people who live in the community and shop at the stores," said Mr. Michael Callewaert, organizer of Nellis Appreciation Day.

There was plenty to see and do throughout the day. Booths were set up giving free samples and drawings for



**Chief Master Sgt. Michael Fusco, 99th Air Base Wing, takes a shot at dunking Master Sgt. Donald Cohen, 57th Aircraft Generation Squadron.**

prizes. For the young at heart, balloons, snow cones, bags of candy, popcorn and free ice cream were also available.

Festivities included the Shaolin Monks demonstrating martial arts, a dunk tank full of senior NCOs and officers, and a softball game between Nellis people and the event sponsors. The main stage had a disc jockey that spun pop, rock and country tunes for the crowd.

"What a fantastic day for all the military folks and the community of North Las Vegas to get together, enjoy good weather and great entertainment," said Col. Tim Hopper, Air Warfare Center vice commander.

The splashing and heckling sounds came from the dunk tank participants who were all senior NCO's and above.

"We have a long list of colonels to dunk who were very entertaining," said Ms. Katrena Faulkner, Pioneer Services dunk tank operator. "All the proceeds for this event go to the Top 3."

A blur of orange flashed across the main stage as the dynamic Shaolin Monks performed soaring jumps, body slams and sword fights. Duet performers contorted their bodies with extended stretches and showed strength by shattering wooden poles

with arms and heads.

"I think the monk performance was pretty impressive," said Airman 1st Class Seth Little, 57th Equipment Maintenance Squadron. "Especially the older man and the young kid performing the same kind of stretches, it took a lot of discipline and talent."

Airman Little is referring to two monks, ages 6 and 79, who performed identical extreme body movements.

Besides all the free food and drinks, interested patrons could get a free massage.

"I am here to promote massage on base," said Ms. Tammy Bjorkquist, Sports and Fitness Center Massage Therapist. "Not many people know the benefits of massage or where they can get it."

Nellis competed with North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce in a softball game. The score was close but Nellis prevailed. For more details, see page 21.

The success of the picnic was due to the many volunteers that joined together to make it all happen.

"It takes about ten months to make this happen from start to finish," said Mr. Callewaert. "This picnic couldn't have been done without all the wonderful volunteers. Everybody pulled together working in their spare time to make this fun day happen."

"North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce has done an exceedingly outstanding job in paying tribute to Team Nellis," said Col. Robert Lynn, 99th ABW vice commander. "Their recognition of Nellis is a truly unique event and one that serves to strengthen our ties with the North Las Vegas community."



**Above, Shaolin Monks demonstrate fighting tactics for the crowd at the Nellis Appreciation Day picnic's main stage. Below, the crowd gathers to watch the performance.**

